

REMARKS

The Examiner cites a new combination of references, namely Williams in view of Bean in rejecting claims 33-36, 41-56, and 61-63 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claim 33 clearly distinguishes at least by reciting a page acceptance region that is bordered by first and second stoppers, said stoppers each including a front wall and a sidewall arranged at a right angle to the front wall. In Williams there is only the single flat front stop surface 36 and there is no sidewall arranged at a right angle to the front wall. The secondary reference Bean does not satisfy this deficiency of Williams because just like in Williams, in Bean there is only a single flat front surface against which the initial stack of pages 182 is pushed against and another single flat surface 76 against which the second pages are pushed against. There are no sidewalls arranged at a right angle to the front walls.

Claim 33 next distinguishes by reciting stacking pages of a first job into said first stopper and stacking pages of a second job into said second stopper where those first and second stoppers each have a front wall and a sidewall arranged at a right angle to the front wall. In Williams all of the pages of the first job are pushed against the single flat front stop surface 36. And in Bean the first stack is pushed against a first flat front wall 182 and the second stack pages are pushed against a second flat front wall 76 parallel to the first wall 182.

Claim 33 next distinguishes at least by reciting mechanically fixing an uppermost page at the first stopper only during the offset stacking of all of the

pages of the second job and mechanically fixing at the second stopper only an uppermost page of the second job during the offset stacking of the pages of the third job. Williams has no mechanical fixing. For this feature, the Examiner cites Bean. Bean has a plurality of jogger arms 62 shown in Figure 10 and Figure 11 which are not adjacent first and second stoppers where each of the first and second stoppers includes a front wall and a sidewall arranged at a right angle to the front wall; and also in Bean there is no mechanical fixing at a first stopper only when offsetting pages of the second job followed by a mechanical fixing at a second stopper only when offsetting pages of the third job. In Bean the multiple fingers are fixing at more than one location along the front walls.

For all of the above reasons either singly or in combination claim 39 readily distinguishes.

Dependent claims 34-36 distinguish at least for the reasons noted with respect to claim 33 and also by reciting additional features not suggested.

Claims 40-51 distinguish at least for the reasons noted with respect to claim 33 and also by reciting additional features not suggested.

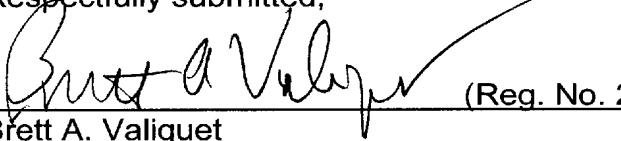
The system claim 52 distinguishes in a manner similar to claim 33.

Dependent claims 53-56 and 61-63 distinguish at least for the reasons noted with respect to claim 52 and also by reciting additional features not suggested.

Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or to credit any overpayment to account no. 501519.

Respectfully submitted,


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